# How to Take Great Photos:

SLOW DOWN.
TAKE TIME TO THINK ABOUT WHAT IS GOING ON BEFORE PRESSING THE SHUTTER.
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO COMPOSE THE SHOT?
HOW ARE YOU GOING TO LIGHT IT?

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=YZPuc3HV5O8

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Keep it Simple:**

- Too many elements in your image will end up looking messy.

- Include only 1 or 2 points of interest to make it clear where or what to look at.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Plain Background:**

- Show off the subject
- Ask the person to move (or move yourself) if need be.
- No head poles or ear cars, please.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Get in close:**

- To make your image "pop," take a step or two closer to your subject.

- Fill the frame, don't waste space, eliminate background noise.

- Too close, and your photo will be blurry. Take one step back or refocus.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Rule of 3:**

- Imagine a 2 by 2 grid over your image.
- Position the most important elements along these lines, or at the points they intersect.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Balancing Elements:**

- The rule of thirds creates a more interesting photo, but can leave a void in the scene.

- Balance the "weight" by including another object of lesser importance to fill the space.
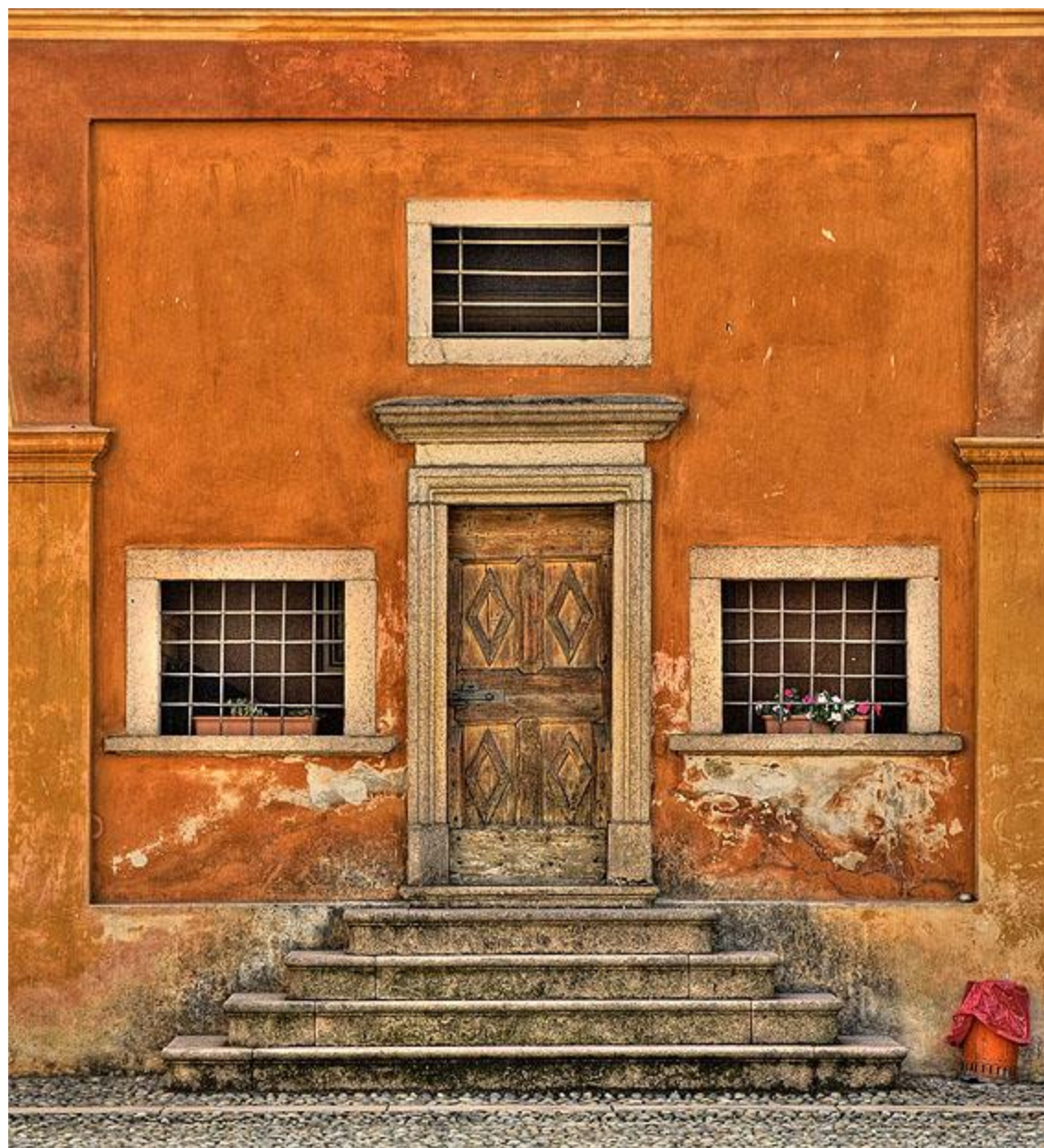
# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Symmetry and Patterns**

- Symmetry and patterns can make eye-catching photos.
- Breaking symmetry and pattern can also be a way to introduce tension or a focal point to the scene.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Framing:**

- "Frame" your subject to draw the viewers attention
- Windows, doors, arches, are effective "frames"

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Get on eye level:**

- Direct eye contact is engaging.
- Hold camera at subject's eye level.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Lock the Focus:**

For sharp photos when the subject is off-center:

1. Center the subject, and press and hold the shutter button halfway.

2. Reposition, still half-holding the button.

3. Fully push button down

*For phone cameras, simply position and tap subject to focus.*

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**See the light**

- Where is it coming from?
- Whether natural or artificial, how can you use it to your advantage?
- Move yourself or your subject to make sure faces are well lit.

# How to Take Powerful Photos:

**Use flash during the day**

* Bright day out?
* Switch on flash to get rid of harsh shadows.